Department of Tourism has got prepared a Master Plan through the Town & Country Planning Organisation. In addition, the Department has constituted a Task Force for identification of Buddhist centres in States other than U.P. and Bihar and recommend suitable measures for development of infrastructure at the identified centres. After the recommendations of the Task Force are received, the Deaprtment would ask the Government of Orissa to formulate specific proposals for central financial assistance for development of tourism infrastructure at Lalitgiri, Ratnagiri, and Udaigiri. These proposals will be considered for financial sanction by the Department subject to their merits, availability of funds and interse priorities.

Air services of India to Singapore and Malaysia

3370. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce more air services to Singapore and Malayasia; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the existing air services available between India and those countries and the programme proposed by Government for the extension of air services to those countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) and (b) Air India at present has no plans to introduce more air srevices to Singapore & Malaysia. At present Air India are operating seven weekly frequencies to this region as follows:—

(i) Two 747 services a week between India & Australia via Singapore.

(ii) Five weekly services with Airbus A-310 aircraft to Singapore, two of which touch Kuala Lumpur.

Indian Airlines currently operates a once-weekly A-300 service between Madras and Singapore and propose to increase the frequency to two per week. Indian Airlines may also introduce air services between India & Malaysia by including Kuala Lumpur as a halt on its Madras/Singapore service.

Apart from Air India and Indian Airlines, several other carriers (Aeroflot, Air Canada, Alitalia, K.L.M. Qantas, Singapore Airlines; Swissair, Turkish Airlines, Lufthansa and Malaysian Airlines) are operating on the route between India-Singapore/Malaysia.

Loan from West German bank to finance the purchase of Airbuses

3371. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Airlines and the West German Bank have signed an Agreement for loan to finance the purchase of Airbus;

(b) if so, what are the details of total loans provided; and

(c) what are the conditions put forward by them in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) With the approval of Government, Indian Airlines has entered into an agreement with Kreditanstalt fur Wiederaufbau (KFU), West Germany, for a loan of US $ 250 million. The loan carries an interest rate of 10.226 per cent and is repayable in 15 years with two years grace. This is a commercial credit arrangement between Indian Airlines and KFW guaranteed by the Government of India. There are no restrictive conditions imposed on either Indian Airlines or on the guarantor.